

Message Text

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SUBJECT : SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALISTS - "A THIRD CHOICE".

1. SUMMARY - DURING THEIR SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS PROCLAIMED THEIR DESIRE TO PROVIDE
FRENCH VOTERS WITH A THIRD CHOICE - BETWEEN THE COMMON
PROGRAM AND THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY. THE LEADER OF
THE F.S.D., ERIC HINTERMANN AND OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE
CONGRESS, WHILE EMPHATICALLY STATING THAT THEY COULD
NEVER WORK WITH MITTERRAND AND THE P.C.F., COMPLAINED
THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS DONE NOTHING TO PLAN FOR
THE FUTURE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY. THE AIM OF THE F.S.D.
IS TO PREPARE FRANCE FOR A TOMORROW IN WHICH THE NATION
CAN WORK AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EUROPE. FRENCH VOTERS
WILL THUS BE GIVEN A CHOICE THAT IS NEITHER CAPITALISM NOR
COMMUNISM. DURING THE CONGRESS, THE MOVEMENT WAS EQUATED
WITH THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ITALY (SARAGAT) AND
EVEN THE JAPANESE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. HINTERMANN
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FEELS THAT THE F.S.D. MAY SOMEDAY BE THANKED BY THE
SOCIALIST PARTY FOR SALVAGING FRENCH SOCIALISM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE "FEDERATION DES
SOCIALISTES DEMOCRATES" (F.S.D.) WAS HELD IN NICE ON
JANUARY 8/9, 1977. THE F.S.D., IN EXISTENCE SINCE JUNE
1975, WAS FORMED BY A SMALL GROUP OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY UNDER

THE LEADERSHIP OF ERIC HINTERMANN (A FORMER LEADER OF THE RIGHT-WING MOVEMENT IN THE P.S.) WHO HAS OPPOSED THE SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST ALLIANCE . HINTERMANN IS PRESENTLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE F.S.D. AND, DURING THE NICE CONGRESS, WAS RE-ELECTED TO THE SAME POSITION. MORE THAN 150 DELEGATES ATTENDED FROM THROUGHOUT FRANCE. THE MAIN WORK OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST GATHERING, WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN 75 DEPARTMENTS AND HAS AN ESTIMATED 12,000 MEMBERS, WAS CENTERED ON DEFINING THE GOALS OF THE MOVEMENT WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, WORKING OUT THEIR POSITION

IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

3. THE CENTRAL THEME EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL SPEAKERS DURING THE TWO-DAY CONGRESS CENTERED AROUND THE DESIRE OF THE F.S.D. TO OFFER TO THE FRENCH VOTER A DEFINITE CHOICE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY AND THE P.S./P.C.F. COMMON PROGRAM. HINTERMAN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF F.S.D. PRESENT ADHERENTS ARE FORMER P.S. MEMBERS WHO LEFT PARTY DUE TO ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE WELCOMED THE YOUNG MEMBERS, WHO ARE NEW VOTERS AND HAVE NO PRIOR PARTY AFFILIATIONS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL UNIONISTS WHO HAVE JOINED THE F.S.D. THE YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION WERE MUCH IN EVIDENCE DURING THE TWO-DAY MEETING. HINTERMAN INFORMED REPORTING OFFICER THAT IN SPITE OF LACK OF EXTENSIVE NATIONAL PUBLICITY, THE FEDERATION IS PLEASED AT RESPONSE - PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTH. THAT THE F.S.D. IS ESPECIALLY STRONG IN THE NICE AREA IS DUE MAINLY TO EFFORTS AND PERSONALITY OF VICE-MAYOR OF NICE, THERESE ROMEO.

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4. NUMBERED AMONG OVER 1,000 ELECTED OFFICIALS IN FRANCE HAVING EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AND APPROVAL OF F.S.D. S GOALS ARE, ACCORDING TO HINTERMANN, PIERRE ALDUY (DEPUTY-MAYOR OF PERPIGNAN); MAURICE BRUN (DEPUTY-MAYOR OF MONTLUCON); ROBERT DRAPIER (DEPUTY OF MEURTHE ET MOSELLE); CHRISTIAN CHAUVEL (DEPUTY OF LOIRE ATLANTIQUE). THE FEDERATION, IN ADDITION, IS REPRESENTED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WHICH COORDINATES THE "SOCIALISTS OUTSIDE OF THE COMMON PROGRAM".

5. IN POINTING OUT THAT THE F.S.D. HAS FAR MORE IMPORTANT GOALS THAN TO SIMPLY RE-GROUP THOSE SOCIALISTS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO MITTERRAND, HINTERMANN STATED THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN ONE WOULD IMAGINE WHO, WHILE REFUSING TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE P.C.F., FIND THEMSELVES ALSO IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY. THIS IS TRUE, HE STATED, EVEN WITHIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY WHERE ONE OUT OF THREE MEMBERS ARE OPPOSED TO THE PARTY POLICIES. SINCE THE SOCIALISTS CLAIM OVER 30 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH

ELECTORQTE, TEN OUT OF ONE HUNDRED SOCIALIST VOTERS HOLD IDEAS SIMILAR TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS. IN ADDITION, THE F.S.D. HOPES TO WELCOME ALL THOSE WHO WOULD BE TEMPTED TO VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM. RECENT POLLS INDICATE THAT ONE FRENCHMAN IN FIVE FINDS HIMSELF IN SUCH A POSITION. HINTERMANN STATED MORE THAN ONCE DURING THE CONGRESS THAT HIS PRIME GOAL WAS TO CONVINCE THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO VOTE FOR EITHER THE COMMONG PROGRAM OR FOR THE MAJORITY THAT THERE EXISTED A THIRD ALTERNATIVE - THE FEDERATION DES SOCIALISTES DEMOCRATES .

6. THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS' POSITION IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE STATED DOUBLE OBJECTIVE : I.E. DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE COMMON PROGRAM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME OPPOSING THE REACTIONARY RIGHT . THE F.S.D. ACCORDING TO HINTERMANN, UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL WORK TO HELP ELECT TO CITY HALLS THROUGHOUT FRANCE THOSE SOCIALISTS WHO HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY. IN THE CITIES WHERE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THE F.S.D. WILL SUPPORT THOSE WHOM THEY THINK BEST MAINTAIN TRUE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL PRINCIPLES. IN SUCH CASES, A CLOSE LOOK WILL BE TAKEN AT THESE CANDIDATES VIEWS ON EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMIC SPECULATION BEFORE F.S.D. SUPPORT WILL BE ACCORDED. IN ALL SUCH EVENTS THE F.S.D. WILL LOOK AT THE MANAGERIAL ABILITY OF EACH MAYOR RATHER THAN THEIR POLITICAL LABEL. AN EXAMPLE WHICH WAS CITED BY HINTERMANN WAS THE TOWN OF THONON-LES-BAINS, WHERE THE F.S.D. HAS ACCEPTED TO BE PART OF THE LIST OF THE PRESENT MAYOR, MR PIANTA, EVEN THOUGH HE IS AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN NICE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS CIRCULATING AT THE CONGRESS, JACQUES MEDECIN HAS PROMISED TO INCLUDE ON HIS LIST AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE F.S.D. MEMBERS OR CANDIDATES.

7. IN ADDITION, DURING THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTION, THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE INFLUENCE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY FROM SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. HINTERMANN DEPLORED THE FACT THAT HIS FORMER PARTY HAD SUCCEEDED IN SPLITTING FRANCE INTO TWO SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CAMPS - EVEN DOWN TO THE LE VEL OF THE TOWN-HALL. IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE EVIDENT THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE SUCCESSFUL SOCIALIST CANDIDATES WILL OWE THEIR ELECTIONS TO COMMUNIST VOTERS, HE NOTED. THE FACT THAT MITTERRAND AND THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY ARE SLOWLY BECOMING ONE AND THE SAME ENTITY, WAS A RECURRING THEME THROUGHOUT THE NICE CONGRESS.

8. ANOTHER IMPORTANT AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 9TH WAS THE FACT THAT MICHEL D'ORNANO AGREED TO ACCEPT THE F.S.D. ON HIS LIST IN PARIS, IN VIEW OF GISCARDS PRESENT DRIVE TO ENLARGE THE MAJORITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THEIR PRESENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE PARIS LIST EVEN THOUGH THEY DO
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NOT WISH TO JOIN THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY.

9. DURING THE FINAL SESSION, MR HINTERMANN WAS RE-ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE F.S.D. ALSO ELECTED WERE : ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARIES CHRISTIAN CHAUVEL (DEPUTY OF LOIRE ATLANTIQUE), THERESE ROMEO (VICE-MAYOR OF NICE), CHRISTIAN DULCY (FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT), MAX LABAYE (MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR OF MONTLUCON), ANDRE ROUTIER-PREUVOST (DEPUTY-MAYOR OF NANTES), MAURICE BEAULATON (ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF THE FEDERATION OF SARTHE).

10. IN HIS FINAL SPEECH AT THE CONGRESS, HINTERMANN LISTED SEVERAL BASIC TENANTS TO WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS WILL ADHERE DURING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AS WELL AS DURING THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, WHEN THEY EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR OWN CANDIDATES. CHIEF AMONG THESE WERE : PROGRESSIVE REFORM, COMPLETE FRENCH INTEGRATION IN EUROPE (QUOTE WITHOUT STIFLING FRENCH ORIGINALITY UNQUOTE), ENVIRONMENTAL REFORMS, CONCRETE PLANS TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT, INITIATION OF COMPLETE FISCAL REFORM WHICH WILL BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET, AND FINALLY, IMPROVEMENT IN THE "QUALITY OF LIFE".
MURPHY

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